

THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE.

(Established 1877.)

PUBLISHED WEEKLY.

ONE DOLLAR PER YEAR.

INvariably in Advance.

Six months, 75 cents. No subscription for a less period received.

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MONUMENT TO GEN. SHERMAN.

The Society of the Army of the Tennessee is working actively to erect a statue to the illustrious late Commander of that glorious army, Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman. The following correspondence explains itself:

GEN. SHERMAN STATUE COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIETY OF THE ARMY OF THE TENNESSEE.

To the Grand Army of the Republic:

At the meeting of the Society of the Army of the Tennessee, on Oct. 8 and 9, 1891, it was resolved that a statue in memory of W. T. Sherman be erected in Washington. In pursuance of this decision, a committee appointed for that purpose was instructed to appeal to the Grand Army of the Republic.

We made our appeal to its Commander-in-Chief, who kindly issued General Order No. 7, paragraph 1 of which is as follows:

HEADQUARTERS GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC, ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE, WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 9, 1892.

General Order, No. 7.

It has been brought to the attention of the Commander-in-Chief that many of the Past and comrades are desirous of contributing to a monument in honor of our late Commander, William Tecumseh Sherman. He, of all the eminently great Commanders during the struggle for National unity, was the one who was most successful in our arms.

Our Comrades and Relations, Department or National Encampments, "Uncle Billy" was ever a prominent and welcome figure. His efforts for the welfare and pleasure of the "Boys" no soldier has ever had more than he. He was a man of great heart and great soul, and his memory is a source of inspiration to all who follow him.

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the assembled multitude. Throughout all this Sherman was ever foremost, ever the leader, ever the moving spirit and inspiration. He had shared every experience with his men, marched by their side through the rain, the mud, and the seemingly impassable swamps; slept with them under the pelting storm, and encountered with them the murderous fire of the enemy, and was always ready with encouragement under every reverse.

In peace he was equally one of them. His strongest affections, outside of his family, were with the men who had followed where he led. He was an active worker in the Grand Army, never missed a meeting of his Post when he was at home, and was at every National Encampment, sitting with the Department of Missouri in its place on the floor and taking an active part in all the proceedings.

The response to the appeal for funds to build a monument to him should be immediate and general. Every comrade who loves the memory of Gen. Sherman, and that means every one who is now living, should be glad of an opportunity to testify that love by a contribution toward a fitting monument to the great commander and comrade.

The monument should be more than a commemoration of a great historical figure. It should be a tribute of love and affection from the veterans of the Nation to their commander, and by making it so they will lighten his fame and make an enduring testimonial to their own character.

Let us have it this way, comrades, and build a monument to "Uncle Billy" that will testify to all time our affection for him.

ON RETURNING FLAGS.

It is proposed to return to Mexico the flags captured from her 46 years ago. The advocates of this say that this would be graceful and friendly, and tend to make more cordial the relations between the two Nations.

No such objection to this exists as there was to President Cleveland's proposal to return the captured rebel flags. The Mexican flags were taken from patriotic soldiers, who were defending their Government against foreign invasion. As to the justifiability of that invasion there has been grave question among ourselves, and it might go a little ways toward quieting some uneasy consciences to return the trophies.

The flags which Mr. Cleveland proposed to return were the emblems of rebellion against the Government. To return them was to admit that we had been wrong in taking them, and that the Government's assertion of its supremacy was unjustifiable.

Then, again, the Mexican flags were taken from the legitimate representatives of the legitimate Mexican Government. That Government still exists, and can properly receive the flags, if we choose to return them. The rebel flags were taken from the representatives of a Government which we always denied was legitimate, and which we crushed because it had no right to exist. It consequently left no successors to whom we could return the flags, if we wished to. Mr. Cleveland made the grossest kind of a legal blunder when he proposed to return them to the "States to which they belonged." The decision of that stern Judge—the sword—to whom the case was appealed in 1861, decided that no States had been in rebellion, that States could not rebel as States, and that whatever had been done had been the unlawful acts of men pretending to act for the States. Consequently, the present State Governments of the South are not the successors of the organizations which had been in rebellion, and legally they could have no more interest in the captured flags than the Governments of any of the other States. This is where Mr. Cleveland displayed what the lawyers call "crass ignorance." There was nobody with whom the United States could lawfully deal in the matter.

The return of the Mexican flags is a matter of questionable propriety. It opens up a mighty question which had better be left to rest quietly. The taking of the flags was only a small portion of the injury we did Mexico in that contest. The most serious was the tearing away from her of that splendid Empire for which we have formed the States of California, Nevada and Colorado, and the Territories of Arizona and New Mexico. If we were wrong in taking one we were wrong in taking the other. If we gave back the one, what is more natural than that she think that we ought also to give back the other?

Then, too, if we are going to give back some flags, why not give them all back? We captured a good many flags from Great Britain in the two wars we had with her. Why should she not receive them back? We captured the flag of at least one French frigate in the brief contest we had with that Republic in 1798. It ought to be taken down from its position in the Navy Department and returned, if we are going into that business. We took some horse tails and crescents in the wars we had with the Barbary Powers in the beginning of the century. The descendants of those corsairs—if any of them have escaped the lively administration of French civilization—should put in their claims for a restoration of the trophies which the gallant tars under Decatur and Bainbridge wrested from their piratical hands.

We need not expect to captivate the Mexicans with this theatrical stuff. We would not try it on Englishmen—why on Mexicans? If we should make such a proposition to England she would say to us, in effect: "Just keep your old flags, my boy, and much good may they do you. We, both of us, fought the fight to a finish then, did we not? We could, and accepted the results like men. The thing was settled then and there, and neither of us is asking the other's pardon for what happened. Let's talk of something

that has a living interest to-day—the McKinley Bill or the Bering Sea matter, for instance."

So, also, if we want to win the Mexicans to us, let us do something that will have a practical interest for them to-day—conclude a mutually beneficial commercial treaty with them, or something else that will show